

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

Q=Agent [REDACTED]

A=[REDACTED]

Q: Today's date is March 29, 2018. Time now is 1810 hours, uh, this is special agent [REDACTED] and I'm sitting with [REDACTED] of Anacortes, Washington. [REDACTED] are you aware this is - interview is being recorded?

A: Yes [REDACTED] I am.

Q: Do you have any issue with that?

A: I do not.

Q: Do you have any questions before I begin?

A: I do not.

Q: [REDACTED]. So we're just going to start off with some pretty basic stuff, uh, about you so I have a little biographical - about you.

A: Okay.

Q: What's your date of birth?

A: Uh, [REDACTED]

Q: Um, and uh, how long have you lived in the area?

A: I've lived in the area approximately 12 years.

Q: Twelve years. Uh, and you live in Anacortes?

A: That's correct.

Q: What's your street address?

A: Uh, [REDACTED].

46
47 Q: Okay. And then, uh, it's my understanding that you used to work for Cooke
48 Aquaculture, is that correct?
49
50 A: That's correct.
51
52 Q: Did you start off with them or were you part of the system when they were
53 also, um, American Gold Seafoods and...
54
55 A: I was part of the system prior to Cooke Aqua's ownership.
56
57 Q: Okay can - let's go back and talk about that. Let's start off with that. When
58 did you start?
59
60 A: Um, I started in [REDACTED]
61
62 Q: [REDACTED] Who owned the net as of that point?
63
64 A: At that point it was, uh, under the name American Gold Seafoods and owned
65 by Icicle Seafoods.
66
67 Q: Okay. Did you used to - did you know ([REDACTED])?
68
69 A: I knew of ([REDACTED])
70
71 Q: Okay. Okay yeah. I think [REDACTED] was a partner in - not that this is relevant at all
72 but - just that I remember that American Gold Seafoods was [REDACTED]
73 baby...
74
75 A: Yeah it was.
76
77 Q: Yup. For a while.
78
79 A: For a while.
80
81 Q: Um, so then you were part of AGS and then you went over to Icicle when they
82 kinda started running the show.
83
84 A: I believe that - that sale had just happened or was finalizing when I started.
85
86 Q: When you started okay. Then eventually it transitioned into Cooke in like
87 2016, is that right?
88
89 A: Um, that is correct yes.
90

91 Q: Okay, so then, um, what- what- what did you start off as - with them?
92
93 A: Um, uh, beginning I was entry level.
94
95 Q: Okay.
96
97 A: Um, so I had no experience in fish farming per say, at that time. Um, I began
98 as a quote un-quote walk way worker. Um, so I was being trained, uh, from
99 the ground up.
100
101 Q: Okay.
102
103 A: Just doing basic generally labor, um, tending, feeding, uh, regular duties on
104 the farm.
105
106 Q: Of the Atlantic Salmon?
107
108 A: Of the fish correct.
109
110 Q: Right okay. Was it always Atlantic Salmon out there?
111
112 A: It was yup.
113
114 Q: Okay. Uh, before I continue on that part. Uh, can you give me your
115 educational background just while we're at it.
116
117 A: Um, I, uh, graduated Highschool. Highschool diploma. I went for, uh, three
118 years of college in [REDACTED] and then left there, uh, to make my way
119 up here.
120
121 Q: Got it. Okay. And then let's go back to your employment. Then you started
122 off as a walk - walk way worker is that right?
123
124 A: Correct. Entry level no - no experience.
125
126 Q: Sure and then, uh, moved up to the next position. What was your next position
127 there?
128
129 A: Um, my next position was, um, site supervisor.
130
131 Q: Okay now for a site is that the, uh, the entire net-pen or is that a section of or -
132 how's it work, can you explain that to me?
133
134 A: So if you're familiar with Cyprus...
135

136 Q: Yes.
137
138 A: ...in particular there are three rafts we call them...
139
140 Q: Yup.
141
142 A: ...it's like site one, site two, and site three.
143
144 Q: Okay.
145
146 A: So all three sites are considered The Cyprus Facility. However they are
147 broken into site one, site two, the one in question, and site three.
148
149 Q: Okay got it. So at that point where - which one were you in charge of?
150
151 A: I was site two raft supervisor.
152
153 Q: Raft supervisor okay and how long were you in that position?
154
155 A: Um, approximately a year.
156
157 Q: Okay.
158
159 A: Maybe.
160
161 Q: And then where did you go?
162
163 A: From that point I went to Fish Health Tech. Uh, so that, uh, that included
164 some, um, included some outside training by some fish veterinarians that had
165 been working with the company. Uh, and what not, uh, my - my duties in that
166 roll were monitoring fish health taking regular tissue samples, um, checking
167 behavior etcetera. Uh, coordinating - coordinating with, uh, departments and
168 agencies and at least submitting my - my, uh, field reports.
169
170 Q: Right.
171
172 A: From what I found. To either - up my chain of command.
173
174 Q: Was that for all of - all of just Cyprus or was that for the entire Cooke
175 operation here.
176
177 A: Just Cyprus.
178
179 Q: Just Cyprus. So you were - each- each site or not site but each like Cyprus it's
180 self has the three sites and it has, uh, site supervisor on each?

181
182 A: That's correct.
183
184 Q: And then you were overseeing the three nets as the health person?
185
186 A: That's correct.
187
188 Q: For the fish. Right okay. And is there any other positions besides those three -
189 four there?
190
191 A: Um, uh, prior to raft supervisor I was trained as a diver.
192
193 Q: Okay.
194
195 A: Um, the company paid for all that training, uh, just open water certs and then I
196 got some advanced certs, uh, deep water diving, limited visibility etcetera.
197 Um, uh, so a lot of my job entailed diving early on that was - that
198 corresponded with the raft supervisor. So while doing raft supervisor duties I
199 was also a diver, um, responsible for those - those tasks. Uh, fish health - as I
200 moved into fish health, um, my diving duties decreased a little bit.
201
202 Q: Sure.
203
204 A: And, um, after fish health I, um, let's see after the fish health training I was
205 promoted to the job of assistant manager. Um, of the facility itself so all three
206 facilities.
207
208 Q: Yup.
209
210 A: That was under ([REDACTED]). [REDACTED] was the facility manager and I worked,
211 as, a, assistant manager for [REDACTED] for two - two plus years or so. Until [REDACTED], uh,
212 left the company. At that point, um, I guess I was next in line. I was promoted
213 to, uh, facility manager.
214
215 Q: Which means [REDACTED] were in charge of all three - overseeing all three of the - as
216 in Cyprus.
217
218 A: That's correct.
219
220 Q: Got it okay.
221
222 A: And at that point, uh, that was my current role until my departure.
223
224 Q: Sure. Let's, uh, who was your supervisor - you said ([REDACTED]) until you
225 were promoted. Who was your supervisor once you were promoted?

226
227 A: ([REDACTED]).
228
229 Q: ([REDACTED]). Okay. And how long did you work for [REDACTED]?
230
231 A: Oh, um, um since well - my [REDACTED] was my direct manager when I took the
232 position of [REDACTED]. Prior to that when ([REDACTED]) left - er, prior
233 to ([REDACTED]) leaving my chain of command was ([REDACTED]).
234
235 Q: Okay and then was [REDACTED] in charge of ([REDACTED]) then too?
236
237 A: That's correct.
238
239 Q: Okay so [REDACTED] was - you were underneath [REDACTED] but just a different level in the
240 company.
241
242 A: Correct.
243
244 Q: Got it. Okay. Now who, uh, so ([REDACTED]) is in charge - if you were in charge of
245 Cyprus is [REDACTED] in charge of multiple spots, is that what this is?
246
247 A: ([REDACTED]) was the general manager of the, um, um - well - towards the end the
248 Cooke Aqua Pacific division which was the Cyprus farms, Hope Island
249 Farms, Bainbridge Island Farms and Port Angeles Farms as well as the
250 hatchery. Um, so [REDACTED] was the General Manager overseeing the entire operation.
251
252 Q: Okay.
253
254 A: I believe that was [REDACTED], um, that was [REDACTED] capacity. From [REDACTED] hire.
255
256 Q: Sure.
257
258 A: Um, and so I - as I stated I was in charge of the Cyprus facilities reporting
259 directly to [REDACTED].
260
261 Q: Right. Who did [REDACTED] - who did [REDACTED] report to in the company do you know?
262
263 A: Um, initially [REDACTED] reported to ([REDACTED]). Who was [REDACTED] of Aqua
264 Culture for, uh, Iccle Seafoods.
265
266 Q: Okay.
267
268 A: Um, at the time of the sale to Cooke, um, shortly after that ([REDACTED]) left. Um,
269 I'm not clear as to who [REDACTED] reported to after that.
270

271 Q: That's okay. Is ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED] ?
272
273 A: No [REDACTED] is not.
274
275 Q: Different [REDACTED]
276
277 A: Different [REDACTED] yes.
278
279 Q: Oh, okay got it. All right so you were there for - as the [REDACTED] for how
280 long roughly?
281
282 A: Um, let's see I believe it was, um, I'm not exact on my dates but I believe it
283 was, uh, in the area around August in 2015 - it was fall 2015 I believe when...
284
285 Q: Sure. That's close enough.
286
287 A: ...when um, when, um, ([REDACTED]) left. I took over. Uh, officially shortly after that,
288 um, and, uh, was there uh, until my departure.
289
290 Q: When did you leave?
291
292 A: Um, my - I left in October of 2017.
293
294 Q: Okay, so after...
295
296 A: No I'm sorry, I'm sorry - restate that. The end of November 2017.
297
298 Q: After the accident - the second accident obviously.
299
300 A: That's correct.
301
302 Q: All right. So, uh, you were the [REDACTED] during the entire time frame
303 when we were having the - when the net-pens were having- when that net-pen
304 was having trouble.
305
306 A: I was the [REDACTED]. Uh, through the entire time yes.
307
308 Q: Okay got it. Uh, so let's get into the discussion of - of the net-pen itself. How
309 old were these net pens roughly? The structure not the nets themselves I know
310 those change in age all the time because they are being changed out but the
311 structure itself do you have any idea how old they were?
312
313 A: Um, I have a very vague idea.
314
315 Q: Okay.

316
317 A: I know that site three was the newest site. Um, it was approximately six years
318 old.
319
320 Q: Okay.
321
322 A: I believe, um, site two and site one were of similar age. I beli- I can't speak to
323 an exact date.
324
325 Q: Okay.
326
327 A: But I know that they were, a, considerably older than site three.
328
329 Q: All right, ah, can you give a description of how would you describe the
330 condition of the structure during the time frames you were working on?
331
332 A: Um, site one and site two, uh, were - were in a, uh, state of, um, they were
333 definitely toward the end of their life.
334
335 Q: Okay.
336
337 A: Walkway conditions were rusty, um, we were using materials to patch holes in
338 the walkways, um, uh, there had been some reinforcement done to some of the
339 walkways where, uh, cracks and deterioration had been noticed. Um, so they
340 were - they were in a stare of repair.
341
342 Q: Okay. Now I know that they were scheduled to be - or that number - let's
343 concentrate on number two but number two is scheduled to be excised or
344 taken out of the system in the coming year at some point correct.
345
346 A: That's correct.
347
348 Q: Um, when did you, uh, start noticing, or if you did, cracks in the system. In
349 the structure of number two?
350
351 A: Um, I can't - I can't speak to an exact date.
352
353 Q: No that's fine.
354
355 A: Noticing those I do know that during my tenure as [REDACTED] while
356 ([REDACTED]) was in charge, um, there were some cracks noticed in the exterior
357 walkways of site two. And, uh, some repair work was done. Um, uh, without a
358 lot of details some strapping was put in.
359
360 Q: Right.

361
362 A: Some x-bracing was put in.
363
364 Q: I have a - a - actually I have it out in the truck - I'll go get it here in a minuet,
365 but I have some pictures we can talk about. So I know in 2015 the cross
366 bracing was put in as I've interviewed the [REDACTED] who did the welding on that.
367
368 A: Okay.
369
370 Q: Um, and [REDACTED] said that was to alleviate stress cracking and things like that. Do
371 you feel that that worked?
372
373 A: Um, for a period of time.
374
375 Q: For a period of time.
376
377 A: It appeared to yes.
378
379 Q: And then so I know those were done in 2015 and I'm not going to pin down
380 on what exact date because I don't remember myself but in 2015 that bracing
381 was done and then it - how long a period of time do you think that that worked
382 before things started going bad again?
383
384 A: Um, that appeared to, um, be structurally sound until the event.
385
386 Q: Until the event.
387
388 A: To the best of my knowledge.
389
390 Q: Okay all right. So then, uh, uh - let's get into talking about the structure or the
391 nets themselves. There is obviously, you know, in in estimate of 305,000 fish
392 roughly inside those things at the time of the incident. Um, how are you
393 cleaning those nets?
394
395 A: Um, there were several different methods of net cleaning. Um, uh, our main
396 method was in Situ net washer. Uh, meaning the nets replace or remained in
397 place hanging in the cages with the fish inside them. Uh, the net cleaning
398 machines themselves were of a couple different varieties but with the same,
399 uh, basic idea. It was a high pressure jetted water system so there was a pump
400 and a powerpack that was stationary, uh, on the system, ah, and it was fed
401 through a hose to a wash head. We had a five-disk unit. Which means five
402 high pressure disks spinning.
403
404 Q: That's the MPI correct?
405

406 A: The MPI that's correct.
407
408 Q: Right.
409
410 A: Um, so that was our main method.
411
412 Q: Okay.
413
414 A: Uh, that was manually or with the assistance of a winch lowered and raised
415 along the net walls. Uh, we also had a smaller unit of the same sort of design
416 that was an (Edema) washer. Um, that an Aqua (Edema) washer it had, uh, uh,
417 like I said same basic design, but it had, uh, twin disk head so just a smaller
418 path.
419
420 Q: Okay.
421
422 A: Um, we also had for some time a Stingray cleaning unit which was a
423 hydraulic - a hydraulic disk head so instead of high pressure jetting it was an
424 actual, um, for lack of a better term they were wheels with knuckles on them
425 that actually agitated growth and debris off of the net itself.
426
427 Q: Let's talk about each one of those in order as you describe them here.
428
429 A: Okay.
430
431 Q: The MPI has the five heads uh how effective in your opinion was that on
432 cleaning?
433
434 A: Uh, it was quite effective.
435
436 Q: Quite effective. Okay.
437
438 A: When, uh, operational quite effective.
439
440 Q: Right. We'll get into the operational part of it. So let's just talk about a couple
441 of things that grow on there. Obviously, there was seaweed.
442
443 A: Mm-hm.
444
445 Q: There's shrimp - I can't think of the name of what they call that.
446
447 A: Oh, um, hydroids.
448
449 Q: Yeah.
450

451 A: They are hydroids.
452
453 Q: Yeah exactly. And then there is mussels.
454
455 A: Mussels of course.
456
457 Q: Obviously. How does the MPI do against all of that stuff? Is it pretty good or
458 does it have good stuff and bad stuff? How does it work?
459
460 A: Um, the - the MPI worked great on probably 90 percent of biofouling.
461
462 Q: Okay.
463
464 A: Um, muscles included when the mussels were small it was quite effective on
465 it. If - once mussels begin to set, um, and they were large thick sets of them.
466
467 Q: Right.
468
469 A: It - its effectiveness decreased.
470
471 Q: Okay. How - let's say you said like 90 percent - it can handle 90 percent of
472 that stuff. If it was, uh, large amounts of large mussels what's - what would
473 you say its effectiveness is on that?
474
475 A: Um.
476
477 Q: I know you're not a scientist just a thought about...
478
479 A: Right, um, all I can say to that is when we did encounter areas of uh, of - of
480 progressed growth. Large mussel sets, um, it would take multiple passes or
481 take more time to clean that net.
482
483 Q: Okay.
484
485 A: So instead of allowing for one pass and it being and it um being clean -
486 deemed clean...
487
488 Q: Right.
489
490 A: ...it would, uh, the net cleaning itself would take longer and may mean
491 multiple passes however each pass - each pass, um, each pass, resulted in, uh,
492 decreasing the amount of fouling so as you make multiple passes it...
493
494 Q: Got it.
495

496 A: ...would kind of chew through it.
497
498 Q: Okay. Let's talk about the edema itself how did that do?
499
500 A: The (Edema) was similar to the MPI, uh, in effectiveness and operation with
501 the exception of the fact that it had, uh, a smaller...
502
503 Q: Path.
504
505 A: Footprint or path.
506
507 Q: Right. Right okay. How did the stingray do?
508
509 A: Uh, the stingray was very effective. Uh, especially on heavy growth. Like
510 mussels. It was our go-to.
511
512 Q: Yeah, I saw it. It looks like it has almost blades on it.
513
514 A: Exactly yeah. Um, it was effective in that it was actual, uh, mechanical
515 disturbance of the muscles.
516
517 Q: Right. Okay.
518
519 A: Um, up and - and extreme fouling like that so it was, quite effective.
520
521 Q: Um, on a - I don't know a lot about net-pens but obviously on a net-pen
522 you're going to have an inside and an outside.
523
524 A: Mm-hm.
525
526 Q: And then you're going to have your predator net out there as well to keep -
527 and that surrounds the entire contraption, right?
528
529 A: That's correct.
530
531 Q: Does the MPI or any of the cleaners go on both sides of the pred net - excuse
532 me the - the fishing net itself?
533
534 A: Uh, generally no.
535
536 Q: No okay so it - it only goes on one side. Which side does it go on? The side of
537 the fish or the side of the outside?
538
539 A: The inside. The side with the fish.
540

541 Q: Inside with the fish okay.
542
543 A: Correct.
544
545 Q: Now when you, uh, are running that machine and it goes down on the inside
546 of the net is it also taking care of stuff that's on the outside of the net?
547
548 A: Uh, to a degree.
549
550 Q: Okay. But a limited degree?
551
552 A: Uh, uh, a limited degree.
553
554 Q: Okay so if you had - let's say you had a large square that had a lot of muscles
555 in that square some inside some outside. It will clean the inside obviously will
556 it clean some of the outside or?
557
558 A: It would clean some of the outside.
559
560 Q: But not 100 percent.
561
562 A: It would vary depending on the - the growth.
563
564 Q: Right is there a way to get the MPI and or any of these machines between to
565 do the outside of the net?
566
567 A: Um, it would be possible.
568
569 Q: Okay. Was it done?
570
571 A: It was not done.
572
573 Q: Okay so only the inside is being done during cleaning?
574
575 A: That's correct.
576
577 Q: Okay now you have also on the outside the predator net. Which goes down
578 and goes around and just completely seals it off from large animals getting in,
579 correct?
580
581 A: That's correct.
582
583 Q: Uh, was that ever, uh, used with the - was the MPI or any of these ever used
584 on the predator net itself?
585

586 A: Yes.
587
588 Q: Okay. Was it inside?
589
590 A: Outside.
591
592 Q: Only on the outside.
593
594 A: Correct.
595
596 Q: Okay. Uh, and the inside - same kinda deal?
597
598 A: The inside would be considerably more difficult to try to address than even
599 the outside of the fish pens.
600
601 Q: Got it.
602
603 A: Which they would both be an extremely difficult.
604
605 Q: Because they are both together there basically or close to each other.
606
607 A: They are together on the perimeter but even on the interior on the walkways,
608 uh, there's is rigging. The walkways themselves do not allow for a gap it
609 would be, uh, a very difficult operation.
610
611 Q: Sure, when you, ah, clean the inside of the fish pen and the outside of the
612 predator net do you still see material between the two. You know um -
613 biofouling between the two? You know, like on the inside of both there's -
614 where you cannot - you're not cleaning there is going to be material - were
615 you ever able to get that off of there?
616
617 A: The biofouling, off of the material?
618
619 Q: Yes.
620
621 A: Um, um, again depending on the fowling.
622
623 Q: Right.
624
625 A: Depending on the fowling the effectiveness of the washer would clean the
626 outside of the cage - the outside of the cages. Um, and - and thought through
627 routine cleaning you could eliminate some fowling on the outside yes.
628
629 Q: Okay. So, uh, when you did the - the cleaning itself you do, uh, obviously you
630 have four walls in a rectangular shape in each pen and then you have the

631 outside and then you have a bottom. You don't have a top obviously, but you
632 have a bottom, correct?
633
634 A: Correct.
635
636 Q: Does the bottom get done as well.
637
638 A: Um, we address the bottom, uh, as best we could.
639
640 Q: Okay, could you give me more?
641
642 A: Yes. So - so, uh, generally the best way to address the bottom, um, would be
643 with divers - actual divers down there with actual pressure washers. So
644 pressure washer wand and divers going across the bottom. Um...
645
646 Q: On the inside with the fish?
647
648 A: On the inside of the net with the fish. Um, if you can picture using a pressure
649 washer wand and just cleaning it. Um, that was, uh, time consuming.
650
651 Q: Sure.
652
653 A: Labor intensive of course. Um, there were methods to address the floors with
654 the MPI, Stingray, and Edema units.
655
656 Q: Sure.
657
658 A: Uh, that was well was a slow process and time consuming. It involved
659 actually raising one side of the net itself and, uh, allowing the MPI or (Edema)
660 head to run down the floor or physically sending the head to the bottom and
661 having a diver pull it across the bottom.
662
663 Q: Okay so you're in charge of - of the net pen for a couple of years there. In that
664 time frame how often do you think that the bottom of that net was cleaned?
665
666 A: Um, I don't recall how often the bottom of that net was cleaned. Our main
667 focus was the walls.
668
669 Q: Right. So it - give me a guess - let's say a year or six months - how often
670 within that time frame?
671
672 A: Um, in a six-month time frame, uh, let me state this.
673
674 Q: Sure.
675

676 A: So when we received our fish they were stocked into small pens.
677
678 Q: Yeah.
679
680 A: Which is a different net itself. Smaller mesh.
681
682 Q: Of course.
683
684 A: Um, after, um, after a certain amount of time once the fish were large enough
685 that there was no, um, no risk of - of escapement through the larger meshes,
686 um, we would swap the nets with a grow out net.
687
688 Q: Okay.
689
690 A: Kay. Larger mesh more flow.
691
692 Q: Right.
693
694 A: That allowed us to start after about after a six or eight month approximately
695 period that allowed us to start with another clean net.
696
697 Q: Sure.
698
699 A: At that point, um, walls were the main focus, uh, floors were hit on a case by
700 case basis.
701
702 Q: Okay. So on net-pen number two. Your new fish your schmaltz came in
703 roughly the middle of 2016, right?
704
705 A: That correct.
706
707 Q: Okay. So the nets got changed out for them obviously. Shortly their after
708 because they're getting big. You got to move those - to get more flow you got
709 to get a bigger net.
710
711 A: More flow. The nets themselves are deeper so there is more volume.
712
713 Q: Exactly 'cause they are going to get - fish are going to get bigger and there is
714 bigger space that way. I get that.
715
716 A: Correct.
717
718 Q: Uh, so the nets are changed out in 2016, right?
719
720 A: That's correct.

721
722 Q: So you have. Let's say roughly a year between, uh, uh, the nets being changed
723 out and the incident in August. How often do you estimate that floor was done
724 at that time?
725
726 A: Um, I can't say that all the floors were done completely. Uh, at any time.
727
728 Q: Okay.
729
730 A: I know that we were addressing issues as they arose as well as addressing
731 other sites.
732
733 Q: Sure.
734
735 A: Uh, that had other issues.
736
737 Q: No I understand that part. Okay well we've come back to that, uh, let's talk
738 about the equipment themselves - the three pieces of machinery now you said
739 earlier that - they worked and were effective if they were working.
740
741 A: Correct.
742
743 Q: Can you give me some description of what you're talking about on that?
744
745 A: Um, we had mechanical issues. Um, through the Summer of 2017. Um,
746 spring. Uh, early spring and through the summer. Uh, I know one of our - one
747 of our MPI units was down for, um, a bit of time. Um, I don't recall exactly
748 but a substantial amount of time. That unit was shipped down to Seattle for
749 repairs and was gone for quite a while. Um, we received an Edema unit, uh,
750 that had some minor mechanical issues. That kept it - that it was kinda hit and
751 miss.
752
753 Q: Right.
754
755 A: When it was running. Um, when it was running as well as the Stingray, uh,
756 was functional for the majority of the time. Uh, some minor issues that would
757 cause it to be down for a few days or a week at a time. But for the most part
758 we could get that back up and running.
759
760 Q: Okay so, uh, how - how long - let go - let's do this - how many cleaners do
761 you have for the Cyprus system?
762
763 A: Um.
764
765 Q: While you were there anyway.

766
767 A: While I was there we had, um, we had one - we had two MPI units for a
768 period of time. Uh, the (Edema) came in after the fact. After one of our MPI
769 units went down...
770
771 Q: Okay.
772
773 A: ...I believe, um, and the Stingray we had - we had the one Stingray. And we
774 had that for several years.
775
776 Q: Okay so the - e- there was equipment assigned just to the Cyprus. So pardon
777 me - the three net pens themselves were being cleaned by the same equipment
778 it's not one MPI and one Stingray at net-pen two?
779
780 A: No that's correct.
781
782 Q: They cover that entire Cyprus system.
783
784 A: That's correct.
785
786 Q: Uh, was there ever a time when you had to lend those out to other areas?
787
788 A: Uh, there was a time. Uh, when they were shared.
789
790 Q: Okay and that was shared between how many, uh, net-pen systems?
791
792 A: Um, it was shared between all the all the marine farms.
793
794 Q: So.
795
796 A: So for instance if they needed one - there was an emergency somewhere else
797 and they needed one...
798
799 Q: Sure.
800
801 A: ...and we had one or it was deemed we were well enough ahead that one
802 maybe taken and shipped over to another location.
803
804 Q: How many other marine farms are their like Cyprus? In the system here.
805
806 A: Um, well there is Port Angeles, um, its two rafts. I believe approximately 26
807 cages I forget.
808
809 Q: Okay.
810

811 A: Um, Hope Island which is a one raft system of ten cages. And then Bainbridge
812 Island had two systems, no - Bainbridge Island had multiple systems under the
813 Bainbridge Island umbrella. Which was Clam Bay and Orchard Rocks for
814 Orchard Rocks.
815
816 Q: For Orchard?
817
818 A: For Orchard Rock.
819
820 Q: Oh Orchard Rocks. Oh okay I know where it's at - For Clam Bay. Those are
821 both under Bainbridge I got ya. So there is four total with Cyprus.
822
823 A: Four total marine sites yes.
824
825 Q: Okay.
826
827 A: Cyprus included.
828
829 Q: And sometimes you'd have to share that equipment with other sites? Was
830 there ever a time where you had to bring equipment for your site?
831
832 A: Yes.
833
834 Q: There was. And is that because of equipment being down or is that because of
835 growth problems or?
836
837 A: Either one.
838
839 Q: It could be either one.
840
841 A: Yup.
842
843 Q: Okay. All right, uh, when you're - let me ask you - this is more of a technical
844 question but you're out there on the raft and your looking around how do you
845 know that the nets are getting befouled can you see it?
846
847 A: Um, to a certain degree you can see from the surface. Uh, visual cues.
848
849 Q: Just to the naked eye.
850
851 A: To the naked eye. I mean, uh, uh, granted, uh, visibility in Puget sound is not
852 the greatest. Of course.
853
854 Q: Right - right.
855

856 A: You can only see so much depending on turbidity and - and what not, um, but
857 you - you there were plenty of indicators, uh, that I guess someone could use
858 to tell if it's getting fowled.
859
860 Q: Can you give me some examples?
861
862 A: Um, um the growth of kelp. So bull kelp itself usually grows on the surface.
863 Um, grows rapidly in the spring. So there's that. And if you could - if you
864 could see - if you could see mussels setting in from the surface. One could
865 assume that they were setting in below.
866
867 Q: Are you familiar with the time frame that it takes a mussel to grow?
868
869 A: I'm not.
870
871 Q: Okay. Just wondering if you - in your bio stuff you did stuff like that. Um,
872 how often do you check the nets for bio-growth?
873
874 A: Um, the divers, uh, would report back on a routine basis.
875
876 Q: Okay.
877
878 A: Um, they were divers generally two to three times a week were entering every
879 cage, uh, to check, uh - to check cage by cage. I mean net - to check net
880 integrity.
881
882 Q: Sure.
883
884 A: Uh, as well as remove dead fish. Check fish behavior and see if there is
885 anything down there.
886
887 Q: Okay.
888
889 A: So if - if they were observing, a, substantial growth they were reporting that.
890
891 Q: Okay all right, um, uh, what's the regularly - regular schedule for the cleaning
892 of a net-pen?
893
894 A: Um, there wasn't. There wasn't necessarily a set schedule.
895
896 Q: Okay.
897
898 A: Um, our operating schedule was we would work - we would work - we had 30
899 cages total. Uh, with uh all sites included.
900

901 Q: Right.
902
903 A: We would start on one site wash through those nets. The - the unites would
904 move to the next site. Wash through those and move to the next when we
905 finished the last cage they would return to the beginning.
906
907 Q: In that time - oh - go ahead.
908
909 A: So it was - the attempt was just a constant cycle.
910
911 Q: Sure in that time frame. Let's say you started on one, went through two, went
912 through three and then headed back to one. Would you have a lot of growth by
913 the time you got back to one?
914
915 A: Um, that would depend on time of year.
916
917 Q: Okay let's say summer time.
918
919 A: Summer time it could be a - it could be a good bit of growth. Summer time is
920 when the growth, um, um...
921
922 Q: Water's warmer.
923
924 A: ...grew the fastest. Water's warmer, uh, longest photo period.
925
926 Q: Yup.
927
928 A: Right. So.
929
930 Q: Okay. All right. Um, what is Cooke's policy on cleaning? Is there a schedule
931 they set, how's it work?
932
933 A: Um, I don't recall a set schedule. Um, uh, to the best of my knowledge it was
934 to do whatever you could to keep the nets clean.
935
936 Q: Okay so I was just you're in charge, handle it kind of thing?
937
938 A: Do what you can with what you have, yup.
939
940 Q: Okay all right. Did - obviously, I know they had net-pens - excuse me net
941 cleaners. Were those cleaners owned by the company?
942
943 A: Yes.
944
945 Q: Okay they are not leased or anything like that?

946
947 A: No.
948
949 Q: Okay. So on a - on a job like that were you are in charge of all three site pens.
950
951 A: Mm-hm.
952
953 Q: Uh, uh, who's in charge of doing the cleaning?
954
955 A: Um, those - that was given to various crew members.
956
957 Q: On each individual site?
958
959 A: On each individual site.
960
961 Q: Okay.
962
963 A: Correct. Uh, the staff itself for Cyprus for instance, um, there were - there was
964 a raft supervisor for each site. The rest of the employees tended to, um, they
965 weren't set employees for one raft.
966
967 Q: Oh okay.
968
969 A: By that I mean they didn't stay on that raft and never go here or there.
970
971 Q: Sure.
972
973 A: If the task needed 'em here so, um, you know, they would - they would all the
974 duties were shared.
975
976 Q: Sure.
977
978 A: Um, several individuals, um, most of the crew was trained one way or the
979 other on the net washing units so we had, uh - had a pool of guys.
980
981 Q: That knew what they were doing.
982
983 A: That knew what they were doing for the most part. Yup.
984
985 Q: Got it. Uh, uh, how often would you think that one or multiple of the net
986 cleaners were out of service?
987
988 A: Um, frequently. Frequently.
989
990 Q: Okay.

991
992 A: Um, they were, you know, um, they were they were, um, um, it's a
993 complicated piece of equipment. It required a lot of attention, um, and so there
994 were definitely times when it was running you know below 100 percent
995 effectiveness or was down.
996
997 Q: And, uh, let's talk about the time frame in which we know uh some events
998 occurred there. Uh, we know a first event happened in July of 2017.
999
1000 A: That's correct.
1001
1002 Q: Towards the end of the month. And, uh, prior to that time frame going back to
1003 let's say January, six months roughly. Uh, how often were they down in that
1004 six months or were they working at all? Were all of them working how - what
1005 was going on?
1006
1007 A: Um, there were - there were various mechanical issues in that period. Um, I
1008 cannot state exactly how many were down for how long.
1009
1010 Q: Right but there was there was some problems during that time frame?
1011
1012 A: Yes.
1013
1014 Q: Do you believe that - that the mechanical difficulties that the machines were
1015 having and not having in place caused excessive growth at the time?
1016
1017 A: Um, it made keeping up with that growth challenging.
1018
1019 Q: Okay. Because you also had to mind the other two pens as well. With the
1020 same equipment.
1021
1022 A: Correct.
1023
1024 Q: Okay. Do you happen to remember in the month or two before that how many
1025 pieces of equipment you had operating?
1026
1027 A: Um, it varied.
1028
1029 Q: Okay.
1030
1031 A: And by that, I mean - as I stated the Edema washer had some minor issues to
1032 begin with. Uh, those were able to be remedied on site. Um, so then it was
1033 operational again. Um, the Stingray as well has some minor issues those were
1034 able to be remedied on site. Um, and our MPI, had some issues. Uh, one of
1035 them quite major to a point where it had to be shipped to, uh, Seattle.

1036
1037 Q: So right, right before July the MPI wasn't even in the net pen area there?
1038
1039 A: It was for a period of time.
1040
1041 Q: Okay.
1042
1043 A: But in the lead up to the July incident we were having mechanical issues. And
1044 we were washing them.
1045
1046 Q: These mechanical issues are these things you can fix or does somebody else
1047 come in and fix them?
1048
1049 A: Um, we would, uh - uh, we would attempt to do everything we could in-
1050 house. Um, uh to the best of our abilities.
1051
1052 Q: Sure.
1053
1054 A: And uh, and if it was not able to be handled, um, we would, um, we would
1055 request them to be repaired - either an outside source or we did have a Marine
1056 Maintenance Manager. Uh, and [REDACTED] job was far reaching, uh, for all four
1057 facilities. And it was [REDACTED] was, um, [REDACTED] was my contact and the contact for the
1058 other farms when we had these issues.
1059
1060 Q: Excuse me, when you had these issues what was [REDACTED] turnaround time in
1061 coming to assist roughly.
1062
1063 A: That varied...
1064
1065 Q: Okay.
1066
1067 A: ...depending on what [REDACTED] was already dealing with.
1068
1069 Q: Was it - would you say that most of the time it was quick. Most of the time it
1070 was average or below average?
1071
1072 A: I would say it was as quick as [REDACTED] could get to it.
1073
1074 Q: Okay. And what was [REDACTED] name?
1075
1076 A: Um, ([REDACTED]) - ([REDACTED]) - ([REDACTED])
1077
1078 Q: Okay. So let's talk about the July event. So I know toward the end of July - I
1079 think it was like the 24 of July. Uh, the net-pen begins to have an issue is that
1080 correct.

1081
1082 A: That is correct.
1083
1084 Q: Can you describe for me. Were you actually there?
1085
1086 A: Um, I responded, uh, within approximately 2 hours of the event.
1087
1088 Q: In fact let's wait for a second real quick.
1089
1090 A: Okay.
1091
1092 Q: We're going to go off record for just a quick second while I grab some
1093 records.
1094
1095
1096 The transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate
1097 transcription.
1098 Signed_____